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CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT [REDACTED]

TOPIC Division Exercise with Crossing of the Elbe River northwest of Zeithain

EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED] 25X1

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 13 April 1955

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) [REDACTED]

REMARKS [REDACTED]

This is UNEVALUATED Information

25X1

1. On 20 March 1955, the following observations were made in the area northwest of Zeithain:

0900. A unit with 200 to 250 trucks and 40 to 50 four-wheel armored personnel carriers [REDACTED] advanced to the area north of Kreinitz from the Zeithain training grounds. Four guns which were emplaced at the western border of the training grounds between Jakobsthal and Pichtenberg individually fired at short intervals. Eight 122-mm field howitzers and 3 x 85-mm AA guns with a fire control director were emplaced on the Jakobsthal-Pichtenberg road. Six trucks [REDACTED] which carried ammunition boxes were parked nearby. 25X1

1000. The unit with the field howitzers left its position and proceeded to a TLP-bridge across the Elbe River about 1,500 meters north of Kreinitz. The bridge consisted of 34 to 36 pontoon sections. The unit, along with 5 T-54 tanks and 1 T-34/85 tank which had come from the training grounds, crossed the bridge and went toward the west.

The wood patch south of Muehlberg is occupied to capacity by motor vehicles and, presumably, tanks. Four large tents and 40 to 50 trucks of an engineer unit were located on the east bank of the Elbe River. Ten 37-mm AA guns were emplaced at the eastern bridge head and 4 x 37-mm AA guns at the western bridge head.

Additional units crossed the Elbe River during the morning. A pontoon ferry which was towed by 2 motorboats was also employed. The ferry which carried 1 truck with 1 x 85-mm AT gun at a time, crossed the river four times. The bridge, as well as the ferry, were protected by a smoke screen during the river crossing.

1030. Four L-31 rocket launchers were emplaced south of Kreinitz.

1100. Between Pausanitz and Goerzig, 300 to 350 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets proceeded in a line of skirmishers toward Highway No 182. The soldiers were armed with submachine guns, light

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**

SECRET



25X1

- 2 -

machine guns and 8 x 57-mm AT guns and were followed by 13 armored personnel carriers, 8 trucks each mounting a machine gun, sedan  
2 JSU-249 guns, 1 JSU-122 gun, 1 JSU-152 gun,  
9 T-54 tanks and 3 T-34/85 tanks.

25X1

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A similar exercise was allegedly held a week earlier.

25X1

Comment. this was presumably an exercise of the 9th  
Tank Div.

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